

January – Cervical Cancer Awareness Month

STATISTICS

- During 2003, 399 women in Michigan were diagnosed with invasive cervical cancer.
- In 2004, 118 women in Michigan died of the disease.
- During 2004, 64% of the women who died of cervical cancer were over age 55.
- Since 1990, there has been a decline in the number of both new cases of and deaths from cervical cancer among Michigan women and women across the United States.
- Over 94 percent of Michigan women age 18 and older has received at least one Pap test during her lifetime.
- Nearly 83 percent of Michigan women age 18 and older has received a Pap test within the past three years. Women less likely to receive cervical cancer screening within the past three years include those with low incomes, less than a high school education, and/or over the age of 60.

SCREENING RECOMMENDATIONS

The Michigan Cancer Consortium recommends that all women who are sexually active or age 21 talk to their health care providers about receiving cervical cancer screening.



RISK FACTORS

- The most important risk factor for cervical cancer is infection with human papillomavirus (HPV), a common sexually transmitted disease. Women who have had unprotected sex, initiated intercourse at a young age, and/or have had many sexual partners are at an increased risk for HPV infection.
- Smoking doubles one's chances of developing cervical cancer.
- Additional contributing risk factors include HIV infection, infection with genital herpes, and current or past chlamydia infection.
- Other possible risk factors include a diet low in fruits and vegetables and a low socioeconomic status.

RESOURCES

American Cancer Society

www.cancer.org

American Social Health Association

www.ashstd.org/hpv/hpv_overview.cfm

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/cervical/>

Medicare

www.medicare.gov/Health/Cervical.asp

Michigan Cancer Consortium

www.michigancancer.org

National Cancer Institute

www.cancer.gov/cancer_information/cancer_type/cervical/

National Cervical Cancer Coalition

www.nccc-online.org

National Women's Health Information Center

www.4woman.gov

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

- No one should die from cervical cancer. If detected early, all deaths from cervical cancer can be prevented through appropriate treatment.
- Most cervical cancers develop over a relatively long period of time. During this time, abnormal tissue can be detected easily by a Pap test and then removed by a health care provider.
- The primary cause of cervical cancer is the human papillomavirus (HPV), the most common sexually transmitted virus in the United States.
- The FDA has recently approved a vaccine, administered in a series of three injections, that prevents against 70% of all cervical cancers. This vaccine is recommended for females age 9-26 and costs \$360.

WHAT IS A PAP TEST?

A Pap test is a test that checks the cells of the cervix (the opening of the uterus) for changes that could lead to cancer.

During a pelvic exam, the health care provider inserts a speculum into the vagina and collects some cells from the cervix with a swab.

It is usually not painful and only takes a few minutes.

WHY IS A PAP TEST SO IMPORTANT?

Women who have cervical cancer may not have any symptoms.

Regular Pap tests and treatment, when needed, can prevent most cervical cancer.

If cancer or pre-cancer develops, it can be found early and treated.

FREE CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING SERVICES AVAILABLE

Michigan's Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) provides free annual breast and cervical cancer screening and diagnostic services to underserved populations across the state. Since 1991, the BCCCP has diagnosed and treated over 2,000 women with cervical cancer.

To be eligible for the BCCCP, a woman must:

- Have an income \leq 250% of federal poverty level
- Be uninsured or underinsured
- Be age 40 - 64 for breast/cervical cancer screening and for diagnostic follow-up of breast/cervical abnormalities OR
- Be age 18 – 39, have been identified with a cervical abnormality through the Title X/Family Planning Program, and referred to the BCCCP for cervical cancer diagnostic follow-up

Call 800-922-6266 or visit www.michigancancer.org/bcccp for more information about eligibility requirements or participating BCCCP providers.



Cervical cancer can be detected early by regular Pap tests.

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